

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

"For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody."—ISAIAH.

No. 41, Vol. XXVIII.

Saturday, October 13, 1866.

Price One Penny.

✓ THE TWO BIBLES.

BY O. PRATT.

The Bible is the sacred history of the twelve tribes of Israel, located in Palestine. The Book of Mormon is the sacred history of the Israelites of America—the Bible of the great western hemisphere. God inspired Prophets and Apostles to write the Bible of the East: He likewise inspired holy men to write the Bible of the West. The two Bibles originated from the same God, and were therefore, in their origin, equally sacred. The present condition of the two Bibles is very different. There are no original manuscripts of the Eastern Bible, known among men. The original of the Western Bible is still in existence, and has been seen and handled by men of the present age. The oldest manuscript copies of the Bible of the East, written in Hebrew, Greek, and other languages, differ from each other in almost every text, exhibiting many thousands of different readings. But the gold plates of the Bible of the West are the real originals made by Prophets, and written on by Prophets, and not copies, like the Jewish Bible, altered by numerous transcribers. The manuscripts from which

the present English Bible was translated, were destroyed, so that they cannot be compared with the translation, neither can they be compared with the numerous manuscripts still existing. But the gold plates still exist, and will retain their brightness to the end of the world. All the translations made from the widely-differing manuscripts of the Bible of the East, have been accomplished by the learning of uninspired men. But the translation from the gold plates was given by the Almighty himself, through the Urim and Thummim. Uninspired translations must be more or less imperfect, as is demonstrated by the fact that no two translations agree. But an inspired translation is perfect, as the word was, when first revealed. There is no doubt that the uninspired English translations of the Bible of Palestine, are as perfect as human wisdom was able, under the circumstances, to render them. The translators spared no expense, and were well versed in the original languages; but learned as they were, they could not remedy the contradictions and imperfections intro-

duced into the oldest manuscripts to which they had access. These errors were the accumulations of many long centuries, during which scribes and copyists must, either accidentally or designedly, have introduced some very great discrepancies. Translators were obliged to take these copies as they found them, and were not responsible for the alterations. When all the circumstances are considered, it is surprising that there are so few contradictions, and apparently so few errors.

The Israelites of America were in possession of a copy of the Eastern Bible from the creation down to six centuries before Christ, at which time they left Jerusalem. This ancient portion of the Eastern Bible was written on brass plates in ancient Egyptian characters. Many of the prophecies of Isaiah were copied from the brass plates upon the gold plates, and their English translation in the Book of Mormon shows a remarkable similarity to those found in the English Bible. It is true the two translations are not exactly alike, the inspired one being plainer, and easier to be understood, than that by human wisdom.

Learned writers, since the appearance of the Book of Mormon, have labored hard, to persuade themselves and others that the former nations of that continent had no alphabet or written language. But within the last six years, excavations into the ancient mounds of the country, have brought to light numerous evidences of a written language in the ancient Hebrew character, proving beyond all doubt that ancient America was colonized by Israelites. Since the Babylonish captivity of the Jews, the Hebrew alphabet, among the nations of the eastern hemisphere, has received some alterations, that is, slight alterations in the form of some of the ancient letters, besides the addition of final letters, also the addition of over a dozen new letters, together with many vowel points. It is a remarkable fact that the Hebrew, discovered in the ancient mounds of America, is destitute of all the additions and alterations, alluded to, since the period of the captivity, demonstrating the great antiquity of the Israelitish colony upon that continent. It is certain that they must

have left Palestine before the captivity. This is another grand confirmatory evidence of the truthfulness of that wonderful history—the Book of Mormon. We copy from one of the exchange papers in the office the following:—

"SACRED STONES OF OHIO.—From the year 1860 to 1865, a number of stones upon which Hebrew characters are engraven, have been found in ancient mounds in the State of Ohio. Some of these stones have been recently examined by learned Hebrew scholars, and the conclusion arrived at is that they are genuine Teraphim, to which reference is frequently made in the books of Genesis, Judges, Samuel, and Zecharias.

The smallest of the above stones, which represents a human head cut close from the body, contains an inscription which, interpreted, means, "May the Lord have mercy on him, the untimely birth, (or deceased)." On another of the stones—white as limestone, is the figure of an animal like a dog or a panther, upon which are several illegible Hebrew characters. Upon turning the stone, several human faces are seen; on one of them are the Hebrew characters signifying "Almighty God."

From other stones the following translations have also been made:—

"King of the earth" (Universe);
"The law of the Lord;" "The word of the Lord;" "The Holy of Holies."

The most remarkable discovery is that of a stone very nearly seven inches long, about three inches wide, and a trifle over an inch and a quarter in thickness. Nearly the whole of one side of this stone is depressed, upon which stands out in relief a carved human figure—a man of noble appearance, over whose head are the Hebrew characters signifying Moses; while on the remaining sides of the stone, and surrounding the figure in every direction, are the Ten Commandments carved in the Hebrew character.

The above stone was discovered in a stone box, cemented together, the cement being so hard that great exertion was required to break it in order to get the box asunder. The great antiquity of these relics is proven by the fact that in these inscriptions

no final letters are used, they being the invention of a later date; and that fourteen characters now in use, and not introduced until the return from Babel, are not found therein.

The fact is now considered as established beyond doubt, that at a very early period portions of the northern States, as well as Mexico and Peru, were colonized by a numerous tribe of Israelites."

The stone, containing the Ten Commandments, and the carved human figure, was deposited, some five or six years ago, in the Ethnological Institute, at New York city. The learned secretary of that institution has exhibited this great curiosity to many of the most able professors of ancient languages, who find no trouble in translating these very ancient Hebrew inscriptions. While in New York, some few years ago, I had the plea-

sure, through the politeness of the secretary, of both seeing and handling this very curious relic. This was very gratifying to me, as I knew, from the Book of Mormon, the history of the great people who formed those ancient mounds, which are now astonishing the world with their recently discovered contents.

The inscriptions upon the gold plates were not in the Hebrew character, but in the Egyptian, reformed and altered from time to time by the American Israelites. Many of their records were also written in the Hebrew, which of course must also have been somewhat altered by so many centuries residence upon a continent, far from the locality of the rest of the tribes. There has no event transpired in latter ages, so wonderful and yet so important as the revelation of the Book of Mormon.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

BY ELDER FRANCIS A. BROWN.

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."—Acts i, 11.

The subject of the second coming of our Savior is one of great magnitude, and has engrossed the minds of the children of men to a considerable extent in different ages of the world's history, and I feel it is of vast importance to the inhabitants of the earth in this generation. It is important, in the first place, to the true believers in Christ, and the upright in heart, that they may be prepared, with oil in their vessels, and have their lamps trimmed and burning, ready to meet the Lord of glory, and enter into that rest that remaineth for the people of God. And in the second place, it is important to the ungodly transgressor and unbeliever, for they will be cut off at his appearing, and their career of sin and corruption will terminate, and the earth will be cleansed from the scenes of crime and wickedness that are every where manifested around us, and are increasing daily in a fearful ratio. The

Apostle says iniquity should wax worse and worse.

Priests have preached long and glowing sermons upon our Savior's advent; authors have written books, and heralded through the million-tongued press, that the time of his appearing is at hand; false prophets have arisen and deceived many, and, in fact, the whole Christian world is distracted; hence we hear them crying, Lo! here is Christ, and lo! there is Christ; but we are warned in God's holy word to go not after them. The statesmen, the philosophers, and the wicked of this generation, who compose the majority of the inhabitants of the earth, all cry out, the Lord delayeth his coming, for since our fathers fell asleep, all things remain as they were in the beginning.

What does all this prove to the humble seeker after truth? It proves we are living in the very days when

were predicted by all God's holy Prophets since the world began, by Jesus himself, and by his Apostles. The Prophets saw the time when darkness should cover the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people. They also saw that God would proceed to do a marvellous work, and a wonder among the children of men, and that the world would not believe it though a man declared it unto them. It was clear to their visions, that in the last days God would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh : see Joel 2nd chapter. And they said the day would come that would burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea, all who do wickedly, shall be stubble, and the day cometh, that shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch : Malachi 4th chapter. These Scriptures are applied by the professed Christians of our day to the first coming of our Savior ; but it is certainly a misconstruction of the word of God, for we know the wicked were not cut off root and branch, for they triumphed over Jesus, and nailed him to the cross, saying, let his blood come upon us, and our children. They put the Apostles to death, and those who believed in His name. Methinks I hear some saying, no man knoweth the day nor the hour, for he shall come as a thief in the night upon all nations. This is very true, and we do not pretend to specify or define the day or the hour, but the period is as clearly set forth as any other principle in the Bible, and Jesus says, Let him that readeth understand : Mark 13, 14.

Paul says—"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day : we are not of the night, nor of darkness." 1 Thes. v, 4. 5. To whom was he speaking here ? To those who had yielded obedience to the Gospel of Christ, and received the new birth of the water and the Spirit, without which it is impossible to get into the kingdom of God and become the followers of Christ. The wise shall understand ; and I would ask who are the wise ? Those who keep the commandments of God, and are watching for the coming Messiah. The Savior has foretold the signs by which

we might know the dispensation in which he would come. Read Matthew 24th, Mark 13th, and Luke 21st chapters. Here three questions are asked—namely, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, His second coming, and the end of the world. His answers are plain and easy to be understood, if we are in possession of one spark of the Spirit of truth. When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. This was the sign for which the people should watch in that day ; and he said, this generation shall not pass away till all be fulfilled. This prediction was verified literally, and that generation did not pass till destruction overtook them as a thief, and Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in : Luke 21, 24.

The signs of his second coming were, There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars ; upon the earth, distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring, men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking for those things that are coming upon the earth, for the powers of heaven shall be shaken : Luke 13, 27. And then shall he send his angels, and they shall gather his elect from the four winds, &c. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory : Luke 21, 25, 28. We must, then, watch for the token he has given as a sign to the world, lest he come upon us as a snare, and we be found asleep like the Jews, and have to suffer the penalty of transgression like them. Is God changeable, or has he forgotten his premises ? We are informed in his word, he is the same yesterday, to-day and forever, without variableness or shadow of turning.

I would ask, then, what may we expect before the second advent of our Redeemer, and before the wicked are swept from the face of the earth. Read, if you please, the history of the past. You cannot find in all the revelations of God to man, where he has brought a general destruction upon the children of men, without first warning them faithfully, and giving them a chance to repent and escape

his judgments. At the time of the flood, he raised up Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and gave them 120 years to repent and live. Nineveh had a Jonah, commissioned with the Holy Priesthood, to invite its inhabitants to repentance. Righteous Lot was visited by holy angels from heaven, to warn him of the approaching destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and who gave them a chance to escape. A Joseph was shielded from the wrath of his jealous brothers, who sold him into Egyptian bondage, to bring salvation to his father's house, and save them from starvation and death. Moses was preserved from the wrath of a wicked king, to lead the children of Israel from the oppression of a merciless and bloodthirsty tyrant. Zecharias was informed, by the administration of an holy angel, that he should have a son, born unto him in his old age, who should be an instrument in the hands of God to prepare the way before the first coming of Jesus Christ, and the people of Judea heard his voice long and loud, crying in the wilderness, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. In this dispensation, which is the dispensation of the fulness of times, God in his infinite mercy has called Joseph Smith, and appointed him a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, through the administration of holy angels, to go before the second coming of our Savior, establish his Church and kingdom upon the earth, and turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, calling the whole world to repentance, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand: that a people may be prepared to meet the King of glory when he comes to reign with his Saints a thousand years upon this earth. Who have received our testimony, and the message of salvation thus restored? Very few of the poor and meek of the earth, and this has been the case in every dispensation when God has sent a proclamation of repentance to the world. Instead of receiving the offers of life, the people have been enraged against the servants of God in every age, and could not rest satisfied until they imbrued their hands in the blood of innocence.

Our Savior they shamefully treated during his short sojourn upon the earth, and at last cruelly crucified, preferring a murderer released in his place. Many of the Apostles also suffered a shameful death, and the blood of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, whom God raised up in our day, is crying from the ground for vengeance on the heads of men, and rulers, who sanction the hellish deeds of this wicked and adulterous generation. We have only to revert to the scenes of Carthage, Illinois, which will compare with the persecutions and treachery of any previous dispensation. The same enmity and hatred reign in the hearts of the children of men to-day, against the Prophet Brigham Young, who is carrying on the work which Joseph commenced, and they seek his life also; but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ, they have not as yet the power. It is evident the Apostles hoped to live to see the Savior come, and they thought the time was near by, in their day, when wrapped in the visions of eternity, but it is certain we are eighteen hundred years nearer the period of his advent than they were, and no intelligent being who believes the Bible, can doubt for a moment that we are living in the last days.

It was revealed through Joseph Smith, December 23th, A.D. 1832, that a war should break out in the United States of America, beginning in a rebellion in the State of South Carolina, and it should eventually spread over the whole earth, making a general destruction, emptying the earth of its wickedness, that it might become the abode of the righteous. This was twenty-eight years before internal war broke out in one of the most free and powerful nations of the earth, and while there were no signs of division and bloodshed. God's heavy hand will be upon that nation, until they have made a full atonement for killing the Prophets, robbing the people, and banishing them from the haunts of what was called civilization, whereby they thought to exterminate and destroy the kingdom of God upon the earth. We have only to read the records of the age, to see that we have

Prophets in our midst, and their predictions are fulfilling, day by day, before our eyes; and we have every reason to believe that every jot and tittle of their words will be fulfilled literally, as it has been spoken by the voice of inspiration. All Europe is at sword's points, and all that is necessary is to apply the match, and the Old World will soon be in a flame, and they will rush to the contest, and hasten the fulfilment of the predictions of the servants of God. Peace has truly been taken from the earth, and the nations are watching each other with a jealous eye. The destructions by sea, the wonders in the heavens, pestilence, famine, plague, and earthquakes in divers places, all speak in unmistakable language that the time of his appearing draweth nigh.

O ye inhabitants of the earth, awake from your long night of slumber, and behold the glorious light of truth that shines so brilliantly in your day, and accept the offers of life and salvation on the terms of the everlasting Gospel of the Son of God. If you would have more testimony that we live in the eleventh hour dispensation, and the time of his appearing is at hand, please cast your eyes westward, and behold the honest poor (Israel) gathering like doves to their windows from all nations, in fulfilment of the predictions of the Prophets of God, both ancient and modern. These things are literally fulfilling before the eyes of the whole world, and yet how few are on the watch-tower, or have on the wedding garment. Jesus says, Then shall he send his angels to gather his elect from the four winds, &c. These signs are visible to every casual observer, and they have been seen in the day in which we live. He that runneth may read, and know that the fig tree is leafing, and that summer is near. This generation shall not pass till all be fulfilled. Why cannot the professed Christian nations see these things? Because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances, and broken the everlasting covenant: Isaiah 24, 5. They have departed from the ordinances of God, and teach for doctrine the commandments of men. They reject the fountain of light, by denying divine revela-

tion, and say we are to have no more Prophets and Apostles, when at the same time the Scriptures inform us positively, that "the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the Prophets:" Amos 3, 7.

Hear it, O ye ends of the earth, for our testimony is to all the world, that God has again spoken from the heavens, raised up a Prophet, and committed to him the keys of the holy Priesthood, organized his Church with Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers, to prune his vineyard for the last time, and prepare a people to receive his Son, when he comes the second time to earth. This proclamation has been sounded for thirty-six years, and the world remains deaf to the cry of the servants of God. The same spirit of hatred now exists against the work of God, that anciently killed the Prophets, and even our Savior himself, when he came and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. One of the most liberal Governments under heaven, has imbrued its hands in the blood of innocence, declaring it would have no more Prophets, preferring murderers to rule among the people. They banished thousands of natural born citizens, compelling them to seek refuge among the savages of the Rocky Mountains, and the whole world looked on calmly and sanctioned their proceedings, and laughed at our distresses; but God has been our constant friend, on whose arm we continually lean for succor and strength. And under the fatherly care of the Prophet Brigham Young, we have been led to a land of peace, in the chambers of the mountains, where we have enjoyed the rich blessings of heaven and earth, in spite of all our enemies. Through our industry and perseverance, and the blessings of heaven, the wilderness has been made to blossom as the rose, and the desert to become a fruitful field. The angel has flown through the midst of heaven, committed the Priesthood of Melchisedec to men on earth, and the hour of God's judgment is come. This Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness, and then shall the end come. I exhort all of Adam's race, who now

dwell upon the earth, to repent and turn unto the Lord and live; and I say to my brethren, the Elders of Israel, lift up your voices like a trumpet, and cease not your exertions until the honest poor are gathered from every land and clime, that your garments may be clean from the blood of this generation. This is our calling, and no more than our duty to our God

and our fellow-man, and we have a promise of the rich reward of eternal life in the celestial kingdom of our God. May the wicked heed the message we bear and live, and the Saints prove faithful and true to their covenants, even to the end, that they may at last win the crown, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OCEAN TELEGRAPH CABLES.

The contents of a lady's thimble would hardly be expected to constitute a very powerful instrument. They would scarcely have been thought capable of one of the most astonishing feats ever performed by science. The Chairman, however, of the Atlantic Telegraph Company informs us that this little instrument has actually achieved such a feat. By way of experiment, the Engineer of the Company joined the extremities of the two Cables which now stretch across the Atlantic, thus forming an immense loop line of 3,700 miles. He then put some acid in a lady's silver thimble, with bits of zinc and copper, and by this simple agency he succeeded in passing signals through the whole length in little more than a second of time. A few years ago how incredible such a statement would have sounded! It seems, indeed, that the simplicity of the fact has taken even electricians by surprise. When a Cable was first laid across the whole breadth of the Atlantic, it was anticipated that an unusually high power would be requisite to drive the current in sufficient force through such a length. In the first instance, therefore, they used a battery with 50 cells, and afterwards employed 500 cells. But this extraordinary power only injured the Cable, and the Company are now working between Valentia and Heart's Content with a battery of only 20 cells. It is, in fact, remarkable how greatly the success of the present year has dispipated the supposed difficulties of distant or deep-sea telegraphy. It was sufficiently encouraging that a Cable

should at length have been laid without a single mishap. It was still more encouraging that a Cable should have been recovered from one of the deepest parts of the deepest of oceans, and successfully completed. The great importance of the latter achievement is, that it goes far to relieve such enterprises from the speculative character which has hitherto attached to them. So long as a Cable broken was a Cable lost, it could not but appear a most hazardous speculation to adventure half a million upon the continuity of a rope 2,000 miles long. The immense profits of success might be sufficient to tempt the risk, but it was playing a deep game of chance if a hitch in some delicate machinery or a broken bit of wire could, in a moment, sink the whole property of a Company to the bottom of the sea. This element of hazard is now almost wholly removed. It was no mere chance by which the 1865 Cable was recovered. The success was accomplished by a month's steady work, according to well understood principles, and the same method may at any time be repeated. For the future, therefore, it will be a matter of plain business, not of speculation, to lay deep-sea Cables. But the manner in which the Cables have been found to work since they have been completed, furnishes equally unexpected encouragement. The distance and the extent of submersion create no difficulties at all. On the contrary, they seem to have rather a favorable effect than otherwise. The new Cable has steadily improved since it has been laid down, and the old

Cable is better than the new. The gutta percha, and consequently the insulation, have been improved by submersion. As to distance, it is far easier to telegraph from Heart's Content to Valentia, than from Valentia to London. The communication with New York has recently been interrupted, not in consequence of any failure in the Atlantic Cable, but from some defects in the land lines from Heart's Content. It appears almost absurd that, after overcoming what seemed the insuperable difficulty of carrying a Cable across the Atlantic, we should be deprived of the benefit

of our achievement by a failure in some paltry lines which are completely under our control. For the future, however, this will appear no unnatural contrast. An ocean telegraph, however long, affords, it seems, the surest means of communication. It is a break in the telegraphic line which creates difficulties and wastes time. It used to be thought that it would be well to construct telegraphs, as far as possible, in short lengths. It now appears that we can hardly have them too long. The longer the wire, the quicker and safer in every way the delivery of the message.—*Times*.

IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY IN CALIFORNIA:

The *San Francisco Alta*, of July 19, announces a notable and important discovery by the State Geological Survey of California—"Every person of intelligence is supposed to know that the age of the earth, according to the unanimous opinion of geologists, is not less than a million of years; and there have been successive epochs of animal and vegetable life, the remains of which are found deep in the rocks; that the animals and plants of the earlier epochs differ from those now living on the earth; and that, until very lately, nothing had been found to show that man lived on our globe before the beginning of the present geological era. A few years since, however, some human bones were found in England and France, showing that men lived in those lands in a former epoch, contemporaneously with the hyena, the rhinoceros, the elephant, and numerous other animals which disappeared from Europe long before the beginning of our historical records. This discovery made a great sensation in the learned world, and was the basis of Lyell's great book on 'The Antiquity of Mankind.' The ancient human bones of Europe were found in the formation known as the lias; but now a human skull has been found in California in the pleiocene, a much older formation. This skull is, there-

fore, the remnant not only of the earliest known pioneer of the State, but the oldest known human being. An account of the discovery was given last evening in the California Academy of Natural Sciences, by Professor Whitney. The skull was found in a shaft 150 feet deep, two miles from Angel's, in Calaveras county, by a miner named James Matson, who gave it to a Mr. Scribner, a merchant, and he gave it to Dr. Jones, who sent it to the State Geological Survey. Professor Whitney went to the place, examined it, questioned the persons who had had the skull in their possession, and he is entirely satisfied that it was found in the shaft, as represented. There is some water now in the shaft, but it is soon to be taken out, and then the professor will resume his examinations. The shaft passes through five beds of lava and volcanic tufa, and four deposits of auriferous gravel. The upper bed of tufa is homogeneous, and without any crack through which the skull could have been introduced from above. The published volume of the State survey on the geology of California, states that man existed here contemporaneously with the mastodon, but this fossil proves that he was here before the time in which the mastodon was known to exist. Professor Whitney has divided the animal paleon-

tology of the State into two epochs—the pleiocene, or the epoch before the great volcanic eruptions which covered a large part of the State; and the post-pleiocene, or the epoch after the eruptions. Most of the prominent animals, the fossils of which have been found here, such as the mastodon, elephant, horse, and buffalo, have not been encountered in the postpleiocene, and all the vegetables so far met there are of a species not now living in the State. We can now say unqualifiedly that man lived in California before Shasta and Mount Lassen, and the Downieville Buttes, and the numerous volcanic peaks of the Sierra, raised their heads to the clouds; before the era of

the glaciers, which came after the volcanoes, and swept down the mountain sides in immense rivers of ice; before the great canyons were worn on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, and when the rivers were still running on what are now the tops of the mountains. Coats of the skull, which is not entire, will be sent to the principal ethnologists of Europe and the Atlantic States, with requests for their opinion of it. The facial angle is very similar to that of a Digger Indian of the present day. It is scarcely necessary to say that the announcement and the remarks of Professor Whitney made a profound sensation in the Academy."

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1866.

✓ GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENA.

MODERN times have given rise to many geological speculations in regard to the age of the earth, and its various formations. It is supposed by many that the earth is much older, than stated in the Mosaic history. But it is a noted fact, that as one discovery succeeds another, so one speculation supplants another, showing very clearly that geology is not, as yet, sufficiently developed to take its place among the sciences. Geological phenomena present such a mass of uncertainty, that no sound theory, in their present condition of development, can be rationally deduced therefrom. By some theorists it is supposed that the lowest forms of animal life had their origin long anterior to that of the higher ones; and finally, that man was the last in the creative scale. But the California discovery alluded to on another page, seems to give man a higher antiquity in the geological catalogue, and places him even anterior to the mastodon, and other large animals.

From modern revelation, there is no doubt that man was the "first flesh upon the earth," and that all other animals, including fowls and fish, succeeded him in their temporal existence on this globe. (See Pearl of Great Price, page 12.) When men of science have learned all the great and sudden catastrophes which have happened upon the surface of our earth, as mentioned in the Book

of Mormon and other revelations, they will no longer be surprised to find on the American continent, their geological strata turned "topsy turvy," and the remains of man buried beneath the older formations. When they have learned that the two great Continents were originated by a division of the earth in the days of Peleg, that America was thickly populated before the flood, that it was again colonized from Babel's Tower, and a third time by Israelites from Jerusalem, and lastly by Europeans, they need not be astonished at finding the fossil remains of one whom they represent to be the oldest, known to geologists. When they have read, in God's faithful history of ancient America, how, at the period of the crucifixion, mountains were thrown down, and valleys upraised, they can suppress their wonder in finding that rivers once ran where now the tops of mountains appear, and that man and his works have been swallowed up beneath earth's rolling billows. We have the history that lakes now exist where once stood populous cities: that mountains now rear their majestic heads, beneath which the magnificent ruins of dwellings, temples, and palaces repose in the dark gulf of oblivion.

When the Son of God shall again appear, the mountains will flow down at his presence, the valleys will be lifted up, the little hills will skip like lambs, the islands be moved from their places, the mighty ocean seek its ancient habitation around the poles, and the two great hemispheres of our globe be united in one, being restored to its ancient form as it existed before its division. When the foundations of the great deep are laid bare, peradventure geologists will discover in those deep recesses, the remains of antediluvian towns, and indisputable evidences of a race who flourished, before old ocean rolled its mighty waves over their wide-spread country. When mountains flow down into the low lands, like melted wax, and their deep foundations are exposed, let not geologists be startled, if they see the ruins of mighty cities disgorged, as an everlasting sign or testimony of the truthfulness of the Prophet Mormon's history. When rivers shall alter their courses, and great lakes spill their waters broadcast over the lands, and the upheaval of their sunken beds, disentomb the proud monuments of ancient art, let antiquarians lay their hands upon their mouths, and confess that their knowledge is foolishness, compared with the ancient history which God has revealed.

O. PAUL

* We take pleasure in placing before our readers the following from the *Deseret News* of August 29th:—

FIRST IMMIGRATION TRAIN.—We had the pleasure of meeting Col. T. E. Ricks on Monday, he having come into the city in advance of his train of immigrants, which camped at Grass Creek on Sunday night. The Colonel was well and hearty, and truly glad to be "home" again. His train had a very capital trip from the Missouri. There were six deaths in the company on the journey, but those who died had been much worn down by sickness before starting to cross the Plains. Brother Ricks started back on Monday afternoon to meet his train, which he expected would get in to the city on yesterday evening or this morning.

The following are the names of those who died :—Benjamin Meek, from Weston, Herefordshire, England; Susannah Cook, from Throckmorton, Worcestershire; Mary J. Cunningham, from Oakham, Rutlandshire; Sarah Jane, infant daughter of W. L. and M. Walters, from Llanelly, Wales; Hannah and Caroline, the one 6 years and the other 3 months old, daughters of Ulrich and Hannah Haderlie, from Zurich, Switzerland.

There is a very comfortable lumber structure erected in the yard of the General Tithing Store, for the incoming immigrants, with other accommodations for their use. Bishop Hunter and Counsel have been moving energetically preparing for their comfort, Bishop J. C. Little aiding, counseling, directing, and laboring with his accustomed seal. This, with the promptness manifested in furnishing a train of mule teams and supplies to go east and meet the Saints, shows the interest felt in their welfare.

Nearly the whole of the Saints, accompanying the first train, passed on to Cache Valley, about 100 miles north of Salt Lake City.

PROPHECY FULFILLED.

BY ELDER WILLIAM GIBSON.

In the 29th chapter of Isaiah's prophecy, in speaking of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, in the last days, the Prophet gives a description of the state of the people and their teachers, at the time when it would be revealed, that, in my own experience, has been fulfilled to the very letter. I found it true when the Gospel first came to this land, and I find it fully confirmed in my travels and preaching now; and I thought I could not show it better, than by giving an extract from my journal; it may do good by showing the folly of men and the truth of the word of God.

In Isaiah 29th chapter, 13th verse, we read—"Wherefore the Lord said, forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men. Therefore, behold I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid."

This prophecy, like many others, has been fulfilled so plainly, before the eyes of the Elders of this Church,

that it has been to us a marvellous work and a wonder indeed, and has caused the meek to increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men to rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

In 1844, I was preaching in Ayrshire, Scotland, and had been the means, through the blessing of God, in raising the Kilmarnock Branch. This made some of the clergymen around very bitter against me, and the doctrines I taught, and made some of the most learned and popular amongst them, come out, and try to put us down, declaring that water baptism was not essential to salvation, and that immersion was not the true mode of it. The Rev. James Morrison, (the leader of a large body of professed Christians generally called Morrisonians, after him,) took up the subject of the necessity of water baptism, and came out publicly against it, and told the people that the passage of Scripture, that we took to prove this doctrine, did not prove anything of the kind; for instance, John 3, 5, where Jesus says to Nicodemus, Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the king-

dom of God, did not prove this, because in reading the words, Except a man be born of water *and* of the Spirit, &c., every man of education knew that the word *and* in this passage, and the word *even* in other passages, were synonymous terms, and by substituting the one for the other here, as we had a perfect right to do, the meaning would appear very different, thus, Except a man be born of water, even of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God; thus throwing the whole stress of the passage, in the last clause of the verse, as it should be, and making the baptism of the Spirit the only essential thing.

Now, this very wise and learned man forgot, that if his rule was a good one, it would apply to other parts of the New Testament, as well as this. Let us see how it would do if we applied it to Mark 16, 16. He that believeth, *and* is baptized, shall be saved, &c. Now, according to this wise man's rule, if we put the word *even* here, in place of the word *and*, it would read thus, He that believeth, *even* is baptized, shall be saved, and by throwing all the stress on the last clause, it would prove faith to be nonessential to salvation.

Again, try if it will apply in Acts 2, 38, when Peter tells the multitude to repent, *and* be baptized, every one of you; if we substitute the word *even*, for *and*, here, it would read thus, Repent, *even* be baptized, every one of you; and according to the rule laid down by the reverend gentleman, repentance is not essential. Thus this wise and learned man, endeavoring by his wisdom to do away with the essentiality of water baptism, by the same rule does away with all the three, — faith, repentance, and baptism, making the word of God of none effect, and proving the prediction of the Prophet to be true—The wisdom of the wise shall perish, and the understanding of the prudent shall be hid.

A still greater instance of the folly of man, and the truth of this prophecy, took place about the same time. The Rev. C. J. Kennedy, a very learned man, and a teacher of the Greek and Hebrew languages, and minister of an Independent Methodist church in Paisley, was sent for; he came, and

gave me a challenge to meet him in public discussion—subject, The mode of baptism. He chose this subject because of his own learning, and of my ignorance of the Greek and Hebrew languages. We met; he came with his Greek Testament and lexicon, his Hebrew Bible and dictionary, and with quite a number of other learned works. He was to have the first hour to speak; this gave him the chance of studying all he would have to say at home, while I had the disadvantage of not knowing what his arguments might be, till he gave them on the night of discussion; he accordingly came with it all carefully prepared and written down.

He began the discussion by telling the people that if I had not been an ignoramus, I would never have come on that stand to oppose him on such a subject; but it was because of the utter ignorance of those who belonged to the Latter-day Saints, with regard to Greek and Hebrew, the languages from which the Old and New Testaments were translated, that caused them to advocate such doctrines, and attempt to prove them by the word of God; but to show our ignorance and folly, he would take the very passages, by which we attempted to prove that immersion was the true mode of baptism, and show that they proved no such thing.

He would begin with Matthew 3, 16. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway *out of* the water. From this, he said, in my ignorance of the Greek language, from which the New Testament was translated, I would no doubt argue that he could not come up *out of* the water, if he had not first gone down into it; and if sprinkling was the true mode, there would have been no necessity for him doing so. But to reason in this manner, showed the complete ignorance of the person so doing, of the real meaning of the Greek characters here translated *out of* in our English New Testament, otherwise they would know that in the original they merely meant *from*, never giving us to suppose that the person was in, but only at, the water; for example, if we turned to Acts 12, 10, where we are told that the angel departed *from* Peter, it is the

very same Greek characters which are here translated *from*, that in Matthew 3, 16, are translated *out of*; and as we can never suppose that the angel was in Peter, and came out of him, but only *from* him, so by the same rule we can never suppose that Jesus was in the water, and came out of it, but only *from* it.

Again, when Philip baptized the eunuch, Acts 8, 38, 39, the word *into*, as well as the word *out of*, occurs, and because of this, the passage here quoted is considered to be one of the strongest proofs in favor of immersion, being the true mode of baptism; but the same objection arises here, for in the Greek the word here translated *into*, has no such meaning as ignorant men give it, it only means to come to, not *into* any place, and the true rendering of this passage is, They went down to the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him, and when they were come up *from* the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip.

And again, by taking the Old Testament, we find conclusive proof that sprinkling was the true mode commanded by God for the purification of man, and we must surely allow that He knew better than these poor, ignorant, deluded Mormons, the right mode of cleansing. See Numbers 19, 18, 20, where we are told that God commanded the unclean person to be *sprinkled* (not immersed as the Mormons would have it,) seven days, and the 20th verse says, if the unclean is not *sprinkled*, he shall be cut off from the congregation of the Lord.

Again, if immersion was the right mode of baptism, then God is surely wiser than the Mormons, and in giving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, he would have given it in this way; but what does the Scriptures say of the way they received it on the day of Pentecost? See Acts 2, 16, This is that which was spoken of by the Prophet Joel, and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will *pour* out my Spirit on all flesh; so instead of the baptism of the Holy Ghost being given by immersion, it was given by *pouring*, and if so, certainly the baptism of water can be given in the same way, notwithstanding all that the Mor-

mons may say to the contrary; for surely God knows better than they.

In my reply to the reverend gentleman, I said that if to be ignorant of Greek and Hebrew constituted a man an ignoramus, then I must be one, for I knew nothing of either; but to make up for that deficiency, God had given me a little of a commodity often very scarce among Greek and Hebrew scholars, especially when they brought their learning to bear on religious matters, and that thing is *common sense*, and by that I would endeavor to test the accuracy of the reverend gentleman's Greek logic. Then, if the Greek characters translated *out of* in the New Testament, in the Greek does not mean *out of*, but only *from*, and does not lead us to suppose that they were in, but *at* the water, I will try how this will do in the passage quoted by himself, the 12th chapter of Acts, where we have an account of Peter's deliverance from prison. In the 10th verse, we are told the angel departed *from* Peter, and this Greek scholar tells us, that the same Greek characters here translated *from*, are the very same that in other parts of the New Testament are translated *out of*, and as we cannot suppose that the angel was in Peter, but only *beside* him, so when we read such passages, we are not to believe that the persons so spoken of were in the place, but only *at*, or *beside* it, as the angel was with Peter. Now, read the 17th verse of the same chapter, and see how this reverend gentleman's Greek logic will apply to it. And Peter beckoning to them with the hand to hold their peace, declared to them how the Lord had brought him *out of* the prison. Now, as *out of* does not mean out of a place, but merely *from*, and as from never leads us to suppose that the person was in the place, but only *at* or *beside* it, then it must follow, for this learned man cannot be wrong, that Peter never was in the prison, but only *at*, or *beside* it; that perhaps his curiosity had got the better of his judgment some day, that he stood so long looking in at the window, or gateway, the angel was afraid he would get cold, so he struck him on the side and said, come away. Peter, you have been there long enough, and therefore all the story

about the prison, and the chains, the sandals, the different wards, the iron gate, and the miracle, is all a dream, for this reverend gentleman must be right, for he is a very learned man, and as for Peter, the fisherman, and the writer of the Acts of the Apostles, they must be classed with the "Mormons," among the ignoramuses.

I will now test his arguments in another way. As the learned gentleman argues that because, the Greek characters in the 8th chapter of Acts and 3rd chapter of Matthew are the same, that therefore they must mean the same thing. Let us try this rule by other words, and as I do not understand Greek, I will take the English Bible. In Rev. 16, 21, we are told of great hail that was to fall upon men, every stone the weight of a talent, and men blasphemed God because of the hail. Now, what do the characters *H-a-i-l* represent? Why, pieces of ice falling on men. Now then, according to the rule laid down by this reverend gentlemen, wherever I find *hail* in the Bible, it must mean the same thing. I will now apply this rule to the words of the angel in the 1st chapter of Luke, 28th verse, And the angel came in unto her, and said, *Hail* thou that art highly favoured. Here we have the same characters *H-a-i-l*, and because they are the same, then according to this learned man, they must mean the same thing; if so, no wonder that Mary was troubled at his saying, and lost in her mind what manner of salutation this should be; but by the rule of common sense, an ignoramus like me would come to the conclusion, that though the characters are the same, the meanings they convey are widely different. I will now take the Old Testament, and see how this rule will work there. See Exodus 15, 10, They sunk like *lead* in the mighty waters; or see Numbers 31, 32, The iron, the tin, and the *lead*. In both these passages the characters *L-e-a-d* represent a heavy mineral, of which we have various kinds or preparations—namely, pig lead, black lead, and red lead; and as this very learned gentlemen says that the same characters represent the same thing, then it follows that wherever I find *lead*, it means some of these kinds or preparations of that mineral.

Now read Isaiah 27, 18, where God speaking of an humble and contrite man, says, I will heal him, I will *lead* him also. Now, if the rule be good, apply it here, and perhaps the learned gentleman can tell us what kind will be used, whether he will white *lead* him, red *lead* him, or black *lead* him; an ignoramus like myself would be glad of the information.

Again, he says that the word translated *into* in the New Testament, in the original does not mean *into* the water, but to the borders of it, and then they were baptized by sprinkling or pouring. Now, as all the New Testament was translated from Greek, then, wherever I find the word *into* used to convey the idea that a man or men were to go *into* a place, I may conclude it is an error, as *into* in the original, only means to the border of it. Suppose we read Matthew 25, 41, by this rule, and see how it will apply. Depart from me ye cursed, *into* everlasting fire. If the rule will apply here, it will be a very comfortable one to a great many, as they will not go *into* the fire, only to the borders of it. Perhaps the learned gentleman means to prove that the wicked will not be immersed in hell, but merely sprinkled with brimstone. As for the quotation he gave from Numbers 19, 18, 20, he knew himself when he read it, that what he said was not borne out by it, or he would not have missed the 19th verse, which tells us that after all the sprinkling, on the seventh day he was to purify himself. How? By washing his clothes, and bathing himself in water, operations that would puzzle the reverend gentleman, with all his learning, to do by sprinkling.

Again, he declared that the baptism of the Holy Ghost, was given by pouring on the day of Pentecost, and when attempting to prove it, instead of reading the account of how the Holy Ghost was given on that day, he read something that the Prophet Joel said would be done by the same Spirit in the last days. Now read the account given in Acts 2, 1, And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place, and suddenly there came from heaven, a sound of a rushing wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Now, if

all the house was filled, and they in the house, can the reverend gentleman show me, with all his learning, how the house could be *filled* with the Spirit, and they who were in the house not be immersed in it?

These are a few notes from my

journal, proving the truth of Isaiah's prophecy, that when the Book of Mormon should come forth, and the work of God be established in the last days, that the wisdom of the wise should perish, and the understanding of the prudent be hid.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

DUNDEE CONFERENCE.

Dundee, October 2, 1866.

President B. Young, jun.

Dear Brother,—A few lines on the present condition of the work of God in this northern part of the British Mission, may not be without interest to some of the readers of the STAR. The Dundee Conference, although representing four Branches, may be said to consist of two—those of Dundee and Arbroath. The Saints who formerly composed the others, being now widely scattered, and in consequence of this, have not the privilege of meeting often with the brethren. This difficulty, however, is sometimes overcome by their travelling many miles, in order to spend a Sunday with the Saints. The members in the two Branches referred to, are in good condition, and have a desire to carry out the instructions given by the servants of God. The Branch Presidents, brother Gillies, of Dundee, and brother Stevenson, of Arbroath, are zealous for the welfare of those under their watchcare, and have brethren to labor with them, whose hearts are set on righteousness.

There are no debts upon the Conference, with the exception of a book debt of many years standing, which, I am happy to say, we are making an effort to reduce.

In times past, the Dundee Conference has contributed its full quota of those who swelled the numbers of the gathering Saints, and most of those

who are now in these parts, have friends or relations in the land of Zion, who in their letters, give a cheering report of matters in the land of their adoption. We were lately favored with a passing visit from Elder William Gibson, who was with us many years ago, the sound of whose familiar voice gladdened the hearts of the Saints in this part of the country. The appointment of Elder A. Miner, as President of the Scottish District, seems to give general satisfaction to the Saints, and we anticipate a visit from him before long.

A great deal of preaching has been done in this neighborhood by the local Priesthood, as well as by those who have been here from time to time as missionaries from Utah. Notwithstanding all this, there have been but few who have embraced the truth for some time. During the late American war, the demand for the staple articles of manufacture in this locality—viz., jute and linen fabrics, has been very great, and in the midst of their prosperity, both rich and poor seem to have disregarded God and the Gospel. Notwithstanding this, we are in hopes that there are yet many honest souls around us who will eventually render obedience to the truth.

That such may be the case, and that Zion's cause may flourish both at home and abroad, is the prayer of your brother in the Gospel,

A. N. MACFARLANE.

MODESTY AND PRESUMPTION.—The modest deportment of those who are truly wise, when contrasted with the assuming air of the young and ignorant, may be compared to the different appearance of wheat, which, while its ear is empty, holds up its head proudly, but as soon as it is filled with grain, bends modestly down, and withdraws from observation.